

Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC)

Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)

Virginia Emergency Response Team (VERT)

TROPICAL STORM ERNESTO

SITUATION REPORT # 3

1500 Hours 30 August 2006

New Information in Bold Italics

SUMMARY

The Virginia Department of Emergency Management/Virginia Emergency Operations Center has increased its awareness and preparation for the possible impact of Tropical Storm Ernesto.

EXECUTIVE ACTION

EOC Activation: The Virginia Emergency Operations Center is at Increased Readiness condition, monitoring National Hurricane Center advisories, ***National Weather Service and River Forecast Center forecasts***, coordinating conference calls, and producing Situation Reports. ***The Commonwealth has requested an ERT-A to be deployed to the VEOC. At approximately noon tomorrow, the following elements of the VERT will be activated: Federal Coordinating Officer, ESF #5 Planning, Operations (in JFO), Logistics, ESF #14 Long-term Community Recovery and Mitigation (Preliminary Damage Assessment section), ESF #1 Transportation, ESF #3 Public Works, ESF #10 Oil and Hazardous Materials Response, Emergency Planning Liaison Officer, Joint Information Center – Public Affairs, and External Affairs.***

Protective Actions: **Planned Local Activation of EOC:**
City of Richmond – 31 August at 1300 hours
City of Colonial Heights – 31 August at 600 hours

WEATHER FORECAST

Hazardous Weather Outlook, Wednesday 30 August: A flash flood watch has been issued for West, South Central, East Central, Central and Southeast VA for this evening through Friday evening. Showers and thunderstorms will become more widespread late afternoon and into the overnight hours. Heavy downpours will accompany scattered thunderstorms. Some localized flooding may occur in low lying and poor drainage areas. Some areas may see 3 to 5 inches of rain through Thursday afternoon. **Forecast 30 August** – Cloudy with a 70% chance of showers and thunderstorms throughout most of the Commonwealth (Northern Virginia has a lesser rain chance of around 30%). High temperatures will range from the mid to upper 70's and overnight low temperatures will range from low to mid 60's. Winds will be 5 to 10 MPH. **Hazardous Weather Outlook, Thursday 31 August:** Ernesto, now a Tropical Depression, is expected to impact the region Friday into Saturday. Some isolated areas could see 5-10 inches of storm total rainfall from Wednesday afternoon through Saturday afternoon with the heaviest rainfall amounts expected Friday into Saturday. Flash flood watch is in effect for West, South Central, East Central, Central and Southeast VA. **Forecast 31 August** – An 80% chance of rain and thunderstorms across throughout the Commonwealth with lesser chances in Northern and Southwestern Virginia. High temperatures will range from low 70's to low 80's and overnight low temperatures will range from low 60's to high 60's. Winds will be variable 10 to 20 MPH with higher gusts especially along the Virginia coastline.

OPERATIONS SECTION

ESF 5 – Emergency Management: Virginia is at Hurricane Readiness Condition 4 and the ***FEMA Liaison Representative from FEMA Region 3 arrived on Wednesday, 30 August. Regional Conference Calls for localities and National Weather Service were held on Wednesday, 30 August, as follows: VDEM Region 1 and 5 – 1000 hours; VDEM Region 2, 3 and 7 – 1045 hours; VDEM Region 4 and 6 – 1130 hours. A Conference Call with State Agencies for a briefing by the National Weather Service, Wakefield Office, was conducted on Wednesday, 30 August at 1400 hours. VDEM on Wednesday, August 30 also participated in the State of Maryland Conference Call at***

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1100 hours, the National FEMA Conference call at 1200 hours, the FEMA Region III Conference Call at 1300 hours, and the South East River Forecast Center at 1330 hours. Regional Conference Calls will be held Thursday, August 31 for localities and National Weather Service as follows: VDEM Region 1 and 5 – 1000 hours; VDEM Region 2, 3 and 7 – 1045 hours; VDEM Region 4 and 6 – 1130 hours. A Conference Call with State Agencies for a briefing by the National Weather Service, Wakefield Office, will be conducted on Thursday, 31 August at 1400 hours. VDEM priorities at this time are: Expand monitoring of the storm; Prepare for augmentation of the VEOC; Increase communications with Federal, State, Local, Volunteer and Private Partners; Coordinate Logistics readiness; Ensure communications systems are at peak readiness; Develop External Affairs Strategy.

STATE WARNING POINT: Monitoring National Hurricane Center advisories

EMERGENCY SERVICES BRANCH

ESF 8 – Public Health & Medical Services: 11 personnel from VA-1 Disaster Medical Assistance Team, Norfolk VA, have deployed to Atlanta, GA and 21 have been placed on standby by FEMA/NDMS.

ESF 9 – Search & Rescue: VA Task Force 1, Fairfax County, and VA Task Force 2, VA Beach, deployed Type-III teams to Jacksonville, Florida in support of Tropical Storm Ernesto by FEMA. Virginia Wing of the Civil Air Patrol has been placed on alert status by VDEM Search and Rescue Coordinator.

INFRASTRUCTURE SUPPORT BRANCH

ESF 1 – Transportation: VA Department of Transportation has completed preparations in accordance with Hurricane Readiness Condition 4 and are reviewing their checklist for Hurricane Readiness Condition 3. *U.S. Coast Guard Section Hampton Roads reports that the Captain of the Port has, as of 900 hours, 30 August set Port Condition WHISKEY (gale force winds are possible within 72 hours) for Tropical Storm Ernesto. The Port of Hampton Roads remains open to all vessel traffic and commercial activities. However, all mariners are advised to maintain extra precautions as the port can expect strong east to northeast winds during the day of Friday 1 September.*

LOGISTICS SECTION

ESF 7 – Resource Support: Standing by to coordinate federal identification and establishment of Mobilization Center and Staging Areas for commodities. FEMA has pre-positioned 90 trailers in VA and 30 more are projected to arrive on 30 and 31 August. VDEM is mapping potential points of distribution and awaiting input from localities. VDEM has 645 generators, ranging from 20 KW to 1500 KW; 301 pumps, ranging for 4" to 16"; and 45 truck loads of water available.

Prepared by: Michelle Pope
Authority of: Michael Cline, State Coordinator
/s/ Brett Burdick, VERT Coordinator